

§ 1620.4

§ 1620.4 Establishing policies and procedures for emergencies.

The governing body of a recipient shall adopt written policies and procedures to guide the recipient in undertaking emergency cases or matters not within the recipient's established priorities. Emergencies include those non-priority cases or matters that require immediate legal action to:

- (a) Secure or preserve the necessities of life,
- (b) Protect against or eliminate a significant risk to the health or safety of the client or immediate family members, or
- (c) Address other significant legal issues that arise because of new and unforeseen circumstances.

§ 1620.5 Annual review.

(a) Priorities shall be set periodically and shall be reviewed by the governing body of the recipient annually or more frequently if the recipient has accepted a significant number of emergency cases outside of its priorities.

(b) The following factors should be among those considered in determining whether the recipient's priorities should be changed:

- (1) The extent to which the objectives of the recipient's priorities have been accomplished;
- (2) Changes in the resources of the recipient;
- (3) Changes in the size, distribution, or needs of the eligible client population; and
- (4) The volume of non-priority emergency cases or matters in a particular legal area since priorities were last reviewed.

§ 1620.6 Signed written agreement.

All staff who handle cases or matters, or are authorized to make decisions about case acceptance, must sign a simple agreement developed by the recipient which indicates that the signatory:

- (a) Has read and is familiar with the priorities of the recipient;
- (b) Has read and is familiar with the definition of an emergency situation and the procedures for dealing with an emergency that have been adopted by the recipient; and

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(c) Will not undertake any case or matter for the recipient that is not a priority or an emergency.

§ 1620.7 Reporting.

(a) The recipient shall report to the recipient's governing body on a quarterly basis information on all emergency cases or matters undertaken that were not within the recipient's priorities, and shall include a rationale for undertaking each such case or matter.

(b) The recipient shall report annually to the Corporation, on a form provided by the Corporation, information on all emergency cases or matters undertaken that were not within the recipient's priorities.

(c) The recipient shall submit to the Corporation and make available to the public an annual report summarizing the review of priorities; the date of the most recent appraisal; the timetable for the future appraisal of needs and evaluation of priorities; mechanisms which will be utilized to ensure effective client participation in priority-setting; and any changes in priorities.

PART 1621—CLIENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Sec.

1621.1 Purpose.

1621.2 Grievance committee.

1621.3 Complaints by applicants about denial legal assistance.

1621.4 Complaints by clients about manner or quality of legal assistance.

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SOURCE: 72 FR 3954, Jan. 29, 2007, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1621.1 Purpose.

This Part is intended to help ensure that recipients provide the highest quality legal assistance to clients as required by the LSC Act and are accountable to clients and applicants for legal assistance by requiring recipients to establish grievance procedures to process complaints by applicants about the denial of legal assistance and clients about the manner or quality of legal assistance provided. This Part is